

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LANCE CORPORAL
JONATHAN E. GIERKE, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in great sorrow. On January 19, 2022, Lance Corporal (LCpl.) Jonathan E. Gierke, from Lawrenceville, Georgia, tragically passed away as a result of a tactical vehicular rollover in Onslow County, North Carolina. LCpl. Gierke was stationed in my Congressional district at Camp Lejeune and was a Landing Support Specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 24, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

LCpl. Gierke was the son of a Navy veteran and a member of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Collins Hill High School, Georgia. He began his active duty in March of 2021. Since then, LCpl. Gierke's assignments include being stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina; School of Infantry-East in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

LCpl. Gierke's service to our country can best be shown by his attainment of the National Defense and Global War on Terrorism Service Medals. His duty and commitment to our country will never be forgotten and I am forever grateful for all that he accomplished and for his service to our beloved country.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in remembering this patriot and recognizing all the sacrifices that he made for our beloved country.

HONORING DR. PAUL ANTONIK
FOR HIS TREMENDOUS CAREER
AT THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH
LABORATORY IN ROME, NEW
YORK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul Antonik for his exceptional career culminating in his appointment as Chief Scientist for Connectivity and Dissemination at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Dr. Antonik dedicated his long and distinguished career to developing warfighting information technologies for air, space, and cyberspace forces. Dr. Antonik began his work with the Department of the Air Force in 1978 as an electronic engineer at the Rome Air Development Center. After five years of service, he transitioned into the private sector, working on developing, designing, and evaluating sensor systems, waveforms, and signal processing

techniques. In 1998, Dr. Antonik returned to government service and joined the Sensors Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory. Dr. Antonik's exceptional work earned him a spot in the Senior Executive Service in 2012 as the Chief Scientist for Connectivity and Dissemination.

Dr. Antonik received six U.S. patents and authored or co-authored over fifty-five journals, papers, and reports. Additionally, Dr. Antonik won the prestigious Presidential Rank Award in 2019. As the Chief Scientist, Dr. Antonik led the Information Directorate as its principal scientific advisor and oversaw technologies that span the functional areas of command and control, communication, computer, intelligence, and cyber. Throughout his career, Dr. Antonik served the Air Force in a multitude of roles developing sensor systems and knowledge-aided signal processing techniques. Dr. Antonik was an early advocate for applying artificial intelligence into the radar signal processing chain, which is now a best practice for this type of work.

I am grateful for Dr. Antonik's over thirty years of service to the Air Force and his contribution to the scientific community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Dr. Antonik on his retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARTHA
SWORDS AS THE OKALOOSA
COUNTY, FLORIDA EDUCATION
STAFF PROFESSIONAL OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Martha Swords as the Okaloosa County Education Professional of the Year. She has spent years contributing to education in Northwest Florida in many capacities. She is currently working as an Exception Student Education Paraprofessional.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best educators in the Nation. It is recognized that working in education is one of the most difficult yet rewarding occupations in existence. Mrs. Swords has dedicated her life to educating children in a way that will best help them learn.

Mrs. Swords support and outreach extend throughout Okaloosa County School District. Mrs. Swords has displayed dedication by working with students individually, according to their unique needs and by working in a childcare network as a teacher of four year olds. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Mrs. Swords as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Swords for her many accomplishments, and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Okaloosa County School District. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best for her continued success.

HONORING THE CREW OF THE
“HORIZON RELIANCE”

HON. KAIALI'I KAHELE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the crew of the U.S. Flag commercial ship *Horizon Reliance*, sailing out of Honolulu and operated by third-generation, family-owned Pasha Hawaii.

On the evening of November 6, 2020—over 1,000 miles northeast of O'ahu—a private turbo-prop plane with two individuals onboard was enroute from California to Honolulu before suffering an engine casualty. As a pilot myself—with thousands of hours logged in both military and commercial passenger aircraft—believe me when I say that this is the worst possible scenario in aviation: to be in the middle of the ocean, 1,000 miles from the closest land, in the middle of the night when your one and only engine fails.

As water rapidly filled the cabin, the two pilots managed to escape the aircraft, clambering into their life raft and called the Honolulu Coast Guard Search and Rescue center via satellite phone.

With 8–10 foot seas and 30 knot winds on-scene, the Coast Guard realized the gravity of the situation and quickly dispatched a mayday alert calling out for volunteer commercial ships to lend aid, as the distance from shore prevented a search-and-rescue helicopter operation.

Due to the hazardous conditions, the first ship to arrive on scene was unable to rescue the desperately heaving life raft, but was able to remain on scene rendering a glimmer of hope for the crash survivors. Shortly thereafter, the *Horizon Reliance*, under the command of Captain Mark Tuck, arrived and expertly commenced a small-boat operation to retrieve the survivors. Cautiously maneuvering the vessel under arduous conditions, the men and women of the *Horizon Reliance*—union members of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, and Seafarers International Unions—recovered the pilots aboard the vessel and brought them to safety.

I cannot overstate how truly close this incident came to tragedy; the lives of these two aircraft crash survivors, their families and friends were forever changed due to the actions of the crew of the *Horizon Reliance* that fateful evening. It speaks even more to the dedication and devotion to duty of the mariners of the U.S. merchant fleet—the brave

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

men and women who carry goods across the globe in support of the U.S. military, as well as humanitarian food-aid, research cargo to Antarctica and countless other missions in support of our country.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER CHEW, CHIEF OF POLICE OF EVESHAM, NEW JERSEY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize Christopher Chew, Chief of Police for Evesham, New Jersey, for his 25 years of service to his community and our state.

Eight months after graduating from Rowan University with a degree in criminal justice, Chief Chew began his career with the Evesham Township Police Department's (ETPD) patrol bureau in February of 1997. He soon transferred to the investigative bureau, where he conducted investigations into the distribution of illegal narcotics alongside the Burlington County Prosecutors Office Narcotics Task Force.

In April of 2010, he was selected to command the newly created Office of Professional Standards, overseeing areas such as internal affairs, policy management, and accreditations. In 2011 thanks to his leadership, ETPD became a nationally accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and has been further accredited throughout the years. This merit, often described as the "gold standard in public safety", places ETPD in the top one percent of agencies across the country. This distinction is shared with only seven other municipal law enforcement agencies in New Jersey.

In August of 2013, he was promoted to Chief of Evesham Police and over the course of his eight and a half years, Chief Chew sought to strengthen ties between his department and our community. I had the pleasure of meeting Chief Chew in my first term as Congressman and came to know him and his commitment to tackling challenges in our community. Seeing an unprecedented increase in opioid overdoses and deaths, he worked with local drug counselors to provide immediate assistance to anyone suffering from addiction through the "Straight to Treatment" program. In addition, officers and educators worked together under the #NotEvenOnce program at Cherokee High School to inform students about the dangers of opioid addiction. This interactive experience showed students the connection between the opioid epidemic at large and its connection to our community.

Chief Chew was recently asked about his proudest accomplishment. He described new wellness and safety programs for the members of his department which have yielded a healthier, more vibrant, collaborative, and productive workforce. Outside organizations have described it as the "first of its kind" and has since become a model for other departments across the country.

Chief Chew represents the best New Jersey has to offer—exemplifying service and being a positive example for others in our community.

Despite his upcoming retirement next week, Chief Chew plans to remain active in the force and committed to passing on his knowledge to the department's next generation of leadership. I wish him the best of luck with his retirement as he spends his time teaching yoga and writing, taking time to be with his wife, Nicole, and two children, Michael and Natalie. May retirement bring him the happiness and comfort his service gave us for 25 years.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TRAVIS ADAM STARK

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Travis Adam Stark.

Travis Stark was born on January 31, 1922, in Blox, Texas, to parents George and Georgia Stark. The eldest of nine children, Travis spent his youth working on the family farm in Bon Wier, Texas. At 19, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and was sent to work in Zavalla, Texas. While employed with the CCC, he was chosen to assist a local college with trapping foxes for research purposes. Due to the economic instability brought on by the Great Depression, he sent most of his wages back home to support his family. After 11 months with the CCC, Travis accepted a job at the local shipyard and was there only a few weeks before being drafted by the United States Army.

On November 4, 1942, Travis was assigned to Company C of the 844th Engineer Aviation Battalion. His job within the battalion was to build airstrips and operate and maintain heavy equipment. His company was sent to England just before D-Day. After our forces invaded Normandy, Travis' company was sent to France. He was later stationed in Germany and then in Austria. While in Austria, he and 11 other "good old boys" from Texas and Louisiana were asked to hunt game to supplement the Army's rations with fresh meat. After doing his part to fill the stomachs of his fellow warfighters, Travis's company was sent back to France, where they boarded a ship and returned to America. For his military service, Travis received an honorable discharge on January 1, 1946, along with a European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal, a Victory Ribbon, one Service Stripe, five Overseas Service Bars, and an Expert Rifle Badge.

After his time in the Army ended, Travis returned to Southeast Texas. He began working for Texaco, Inc., where he would remain for the next 39 years. Later, Travis married Bernis Kraus, and they had one daughter. He later became the proud grandfather of two granddaughters and the great-grandfather of five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Travis spent his life loving God, his family, and his country. It is my honor to recognize him as an American patriot who valiantly answered the call to protect and defend this great nation during the Second World War. I thank him for his inspiring service and dedication to our country.

LAUREN MARTENS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lauren Martens of SEIU for his 16 years of service to the Service Employee International Union (SEIU) Colorado State Council.

For more than 40 years, Lauren has organized and fought tirelessly on issues in the labor community on many different issues. In his last position he fought and advocated for a raise to the minimum wage and won paid sick and family leave, passed and defended the Affordable Care Act, helped fund public services, defeated attacks on union rights, fought for immigrant and racial justice, and much more.

He has been able to help support members fighting for and winning their union, making their voices heard in politics, and winning improvements in their lives at the bargaining table, including with the first-ever union contract for state employees. I have admired Lauren's passion to be part of the fight for justice and have worked with him over the years on numerous issues. His hard work and dedication to the labor community in Colorado is tremendous.

I extend my deepest appreciation for Lauren Martens and his service and dedication to our community. I thank him for his continuous dedication to serving the people of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TUFAIL AHMAD

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my remarkable constituents, Tufail Ahmad, who passed away on January 13, 2022. Tufail dedicated his life to civic engagement and public service. His unwavering dedication to building a better future for his family, neighbors, friends and community is a true testament to the values we cherish as a country.

Tufail was born on March 4, 1938 in the small village of Allahabad, India. As a young man, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree in Commerce from Allahabad University before emigrating to Pakistan. While in Pakistan, Tufail worked as an assistant professor and then as the Deputy Auditor General for the Pakistan Audit and Accounts Services. Tufail later travelled to the United States in 1968 as a member of the Pakistan audit team at United Nations Headquarters in New York City. After formally emigrating to the United States in 1973, Tufail briefly worked at a shipping firm before he proudly founded his own international trading firm, Euro-America Shipping and Trade Inc.

After 27 years at the trading firm, Tufail went on to volunteer community service and served as a board member of the Committee for Montgomery, Progressive Maryland and the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board. Tufail was also well known for his outstanding active